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Paper No. 6

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In re Application of
Will L. Culpepper
Application No. 09/880,198
Filed: June 13, 2001
Attorney Docket No. D-3081

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AUG 19 2003

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed August 5, 2003, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is GRANTED.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed October 21, 2002, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three(3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on January 22, 2003.

37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. If the statement contained in the instant petition varies from the language required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3), the statement contained in the instant petition is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) and petitioner must notify the Office if this is **not** a correct interpretation of the statement contained in the instant petition.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the

required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Cheryl Gibson-Baylor at (703)308-5111, or in her absence, Frances Hicks at (703)305-8680.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center 3700, Art Unit 3721.



Cheryl Gibson-Baylor
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy



Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner

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